

The Middletown Transcript

Mails Close as Follows:
 Going North—2.30 a. m., 10.30 a. m., 3.30 p. m., 6.30 p. m. and 9 p. m.
 Going South—2.30 a. m., 10.30 a. m., 3.30 p. m., 6.30 p. m. and 9 p. m.
 For Odessa—7.30 a. m., 3.30 p. m., 11.30 a. m., 4.30 p. m.
 For Warwick, Cecilton and Earlville 2.30 a. m. and 4.30 p. m.

MIDDLETOWN, DEL., DEC. 22, 1906.

Local News

Gather Walnuts and take them to Montgomery's.

HORSE SHOEING.—Plain 75c cash. Satisfaction guaranteed.

J. C. GIBBS.

1,000 copies of McKinley select 10c music for sale. Call and get catalogue free.

Mrs. G. W. PETERSON.

Let us do your printing, no matter how small the order, and give you a chance to prove how well we can do it.

After October 1st the Library hours will be as follows: Tuesdays, 3.30 to 5; Saturdays, 3 to 5 and 7 to 8.30.

Take your Walnuts to C. S. Moxley and get the highest cash prices.

MONTGOMERY will pay cash for Black Walnuts in the shell.

WANTED—Four or five Live Young Men to work at leather belt making. Apply to J. E. REX and Sons, 11th St., and B. & O. R. R., Wilmington, Del.

Not so many, yet a plenty of 5 and 10c toys and Xmas novelties at our big 5 and 10c store.

Mrs. G. W. PETERSON.

At the quarterly conference of Bethesda M. E. Church, held on Saturday afternoon last, Dr. A. W. Lightbourne was unanimously elected to return to the charge for another year.

Unclaimed Letters.—The following list of letters remain unclaimed in the post office for the week ending Dec. 18th: Miss Viola Hall, Mr. W. B. Banes, Mr. Geo. Brown, Mr. Bent Mattee, John Saunders, James Startt.

Do not neglect your teeth. A little attention now will save you much pain and expense later on. Dr. J. ALLEN JOHNSON, Middletown, will make examination and estimate without charge. Gas given for painless extracting.

Pure Buckwheat Flour at

EVANS' EXCHANGE STORE.

Husbands wanted everywhere \$25 to \$30 made weekly. Distributing Circulars, packages, overseeing Out Door Advertising. Experience not needed, new plan. No canvassing. Address, Merchants Out Door Advertising Co., 79 Dearborn St., Chicago.

Toilet sets, China tea and dinner sets, pictures and numerous articles, at prices way below other stores, at our big 5 and 10c store.

Mrs. G. W. PETERSON.

FOR SALE.—The "Vail Farm," containing 120 acres, at Hickory Grove, 2 miles from Delaware City. This is an exceptionally fine farm. Also the home farm of Thomas Reed, near Chesapeake City, containing 110 acres, with everything in complete order. There are two fine homes.

GEORGE W. INGRAM.

We want to keep it impressed on your mind that when in need of any kind of printing you should get our prices before giving out the work. We are in a position to do all kinds of work quickly and at a reasonable price.

EXTRACTIONS ABSOLUTELY PAINLESS, a specialty, by the new improved Somoforme gas. No after effects. For moderate prices and perfect satisfaction guaranteed on all Dental work, call and see.

DR. G. A. BURTON.

H. R. Wilson has received a new supply of the famous Lipshultz 44 Cigars. If you are thinking of making a Christmas present get a box. They are 10c quality at a 5c price, do not let your dealer sell you something that he says are just as good. For sale only by H. R. Wilson.

The Law and Order Society which was organized in our town recently, is a branch of the Wilmington League, and has 25 members. The local society has elected the following officers: Rev. A. W. Lightbourne, President; J. C. Parker, Secretary; and J. M. Rothwell, Treasurer. The Secretary will be glad to receive the name of anyone desiring to become a member.

The remains of Mrs. Clara Vandegrift, widow of Joseph W. Vandegrift, formerly a resident of this neighborhood, who died in Jersey City on Monday, were brought to Middletown on the 11.40 train this morning and interred in Old Drayton Cemetery, near Odessa. The pallbearers were: Jas. R. Hoffecker, Thos. E. Hurn, Charles F. Cochran, Edward Jones, Moody Rothwell and George Eichenhofer.

E. H. Beck, Real Estate broker, has sold to Herbert N. Price the farm belonging to Mrs. Jennie Jet, of Newark, located near Kirkwood, containing 188 acres for \$5,500. Also sold the dwelling belonging to John A. Fortner located on Anderson street to Adam Reed, of Middletown, for \$1,000. Also the farm located in Pond's Neck belonging to Frank K. Hendrickson, of Delaware City, containing 200 acres to Joseph S. Benson, of Earlville, Md., for \$4,000.

Postmaster Joffe has just received a new order in regard to box rents, which reads as follows: "Box rents must be collected at the beginning of each quarter but no longer. Ten days before the last day of each quarter postmasters are required to place bill in rented box. If a boxholder fails to renew his right to his box on or before the last day of the quarter the box shall then be closed and offered for rent and the mail will be placed in the general delivery." The prices hereafter being raised. Boxes heretofore renting for 20c per quarter will be 25c; 25c boxes 45c; 50c boxes 60c; and locked drawers 75c instead of 50c.

The young men of Middletown have issued invitations for their Christmas dance in the Opera House, on Thursday evening, December 27th. The committee is working hard for the success of the dance and the attendance will undoubtedly be large. Admission tickets have been issued to those invited, and the gallery will not be open to the public but it will be necessary to have a ticket to gain admission. The patronesses: Mrs. J. C. Stiles, Mrs. G. V. Peverly, Mrs. W. B. Banes, Mrs. A. E. Clay, Mrs. S. B. Ford, Mrs. A. M. Lockwood and Mrs. H. V. Parvis. The Committee of Arrangements: Messrs. H. S. Brady, H. M. Lockwood, J. C. Parker, Jr., Isaac Gibbs, Jr., J. W. Beaman and E. M. Shaller.

Mrs. Eliza Gillet, aged 69 years, died her residence, in New Castle, on Monday, after a brief illness. Deceased was born in County Armagh, Ireland, and came to this country 56 years ago. She took up her residence at Armstrong's and resided there until a year ago, when she removed to New Castle. The following children survive her: Hugh and Ella Gillet, of New Castle and Mrs. Annie G. Dolson, wife of Frank Dolson, a prominent farmer residing between New Castle and Rose Hill. The remains were brought to Middletown Wednesday on the noon train and after services in Forest Presbyterian Church, were interred in St. Anne's Cemetery.

MANY CHRISTMAS GIFTS

Middletown Stores Display Tempting Presents for Shoppers.

As usual during the Christmas holiday season, especially the week before Christmas, the merchants are making a special effort to cater to the particular wants of the numerous shoppers. The show windows about town are filled with many suggestions in the way of useful and ornamental gifts and in the advertising columns of this paper may be found many more helps to Christmas buyers.

The display of holiday goods as seen in the stores and show windows suggest useful gifts for father, mother, brother and last but not least, toys for the children.

The jewelry store is showing many articles that would prove of great use as Christmas gifts. Watches, clocks, necklaces, rings, diamonds, silverware, etc., that surely would be acceptable to a dear friend.

Toilet articles are greatly appreciated by the gentler sex, and these useful articles may be found in abundance in the different stores. What present would be appreciated more by grandmother or father than a single piece of furniture, such as a Morris chair or comfortable rocker; or would not the gentlemen be pleased with a shaving stand? There is a generous display of such as these in the furniture stores.

Fancy articles, so dear to the women folk, may be seen in all designs. A selection of this sort is always acceptable and is ever appreciated. The complete line of toys and Christmas tree decorations ever seen in Middletown is being displayed and as the holiday season is the event of all the year for the little folks, and as it is the delight of the parents to make the little ones happy the dealer in these goods have left nothing undone towards making their department complete. A trip through toyland would prove a wonderful help to parents, and a careful selection would cause the children many happy hours during the winter months when they are obliged to remain indoors.

The clothing stores are making an unusual display of desirable presents, neckwear, fancy gift boxes, dress suit protectors, infant hankies, etc.

Umbrellas, suit cases and traveling bags are useful and may make a friend happy at a small cost.

CHURCH NOTES

Dr. Lightbourne will preach his Christmas sermon to-morrow morning. His subject to-morrow night will be "The Theatre." This will be the fourth and closing discourse on "Popular Amusements."

Bethesda Epworth League meets in the audience room of the M. E. Church every Tuesday evening at 7.30 o'clock. Everybody is invited to attend. The topic for next Tuesday evening is "Lessons of the Manger." Luke 2:7-20; v. 7; v. 12; v. 16. Leader, George F. Wilson.

The Young Peoples Society of Christian Endeavor of Forest Presbyterian Church, meets every Sunday evening at 6.45 o'clock. A cordial invitation is extended to everybody. The topic for to-morrow evening is: "How can we carry the Christmas spirit through 1907?" Luke 2:8-20. Leader, Miss Nowland.

The Christmas season will be observed by the Forest Presbyterian Church on to-morrow, Sunday. The pastor, the Rev. F. H. Moore will preach appropriate sermons at the morning and evening services, and Christmas music will be rendered. The Sunday School festival will be held on Friday evening, December the twenty-eighth. All cordially invited to attend these services.

ROLLS OF HONOR

The following pupils of the Middletown Public School have attained the average of 90 per cent. or over for the month of December:

HIGH SCHOOL. Grade A—Ada Scott, Reece Darlington, Lydia Dockety, Edith Shafter. Grade B—Blanche Deakne, Ephraim Joffe, Mary Richards, Emory Hokit. Grade C—Elsie Boudien, Helen Biggs, Leonora Davis, Anna Shaller. DEPARTMENT No. 2. Grade A—Martha Voelkel, Nellie Pyle, Estelle Beaman, Bertha Whitlock, Lena Weber. Grade B—Rupert Burston, Elma Deakne, Mary Hoffecker. DEPARTMENT No. 3. Grade A—Maud Taylor, Viola Weber, Julie Kirk, Helen McDowell, Estella Johnson. Grade B—Elizabeth Gibbs, Anna Wilson, Laura Connelle. DEPARTMENT No. 4. A Class—Frank Tyson, Herbert Price, Lamont Jones. B Class—Anita Hitchens, Catherine Price, Elizabeth Alexander, Jessie Shepherd, Margaret Reed, Sarah Kato, Elmer Kirk, George Minner, Russell Reed. DEPARTMENT No. 5. A Class—Lelia Pearce, Beniah Whitlock, Mary Cochran, Clarence Weber, John Kimpel, Charles Bludie, Albert Joffe, Harry S. Gekko, Percy Price, Mildred Freeman, Ernie Fortner. B Class—Delma Howell, Esther Whitlock, Anna Whitlock, Elva Marker, Bertha Reed, Peter Johnson, Harrie Berkman, Samuel Berkman, Harry Maul, Frank McWhorter, Frank Walker.

STATE EXHIBIT AT JAMESTOWN

Should the next Legislature make the necessary appropriations for a State exhibit at the Jamestown Exposition, which is to be held at Hampton Roads next spring and summer, Delaware will undoubtedly be well represented with appropriate displays of its manufacturing industries, its merchants and its places of historical interest.

The subject is arousing more attention every day and every citizen who has any patriotism at all is becoming enthused with the idea and is agitating the movement to have the State donate a sum that will be sufficient to cover the expenses of a creditable display before the other States of the nation.

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Mrs. Isaac Taylor and Mrs. Walter Taylor spent Tuesday in Wilmington.

Mr. J. J. Northup is spending the holidays with relatives in New York State.

Miss Lillian Walker was the guest of relatives and friends in Philadelphia over Sunday.

Mr. John F. Metten, of Philadelphia, spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. Alex. Metten.

Mrs. C. R. Gilpin left Thursday for Kirkwood, Mo., where she will spend the winter.

Miss Sylvia Moore, of Cheltenham, Pa., will spend the Christmas holidays at her home here.

Mr. E. H. Beck was the guest of his son in Washington, D. C., during the past week.

Miss Viola Mahoney, of Frederica, is spending several days with Mr. and Mrs. E. S. Long.

Mrs. Charles N. Dickerson, of Norris-town, Pa., is the guest of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Webb.

Mrs. Ella Cochran will spend Christmas with her daughter, Mrs. H. A. Pool, near McDonough.

Mr. George D. Kelley, Jr., of Newark, spent Sunday with his parents, Mr. G. D. Kelley and wife.

Mrs. F. C. West, of Wilmington, was the guest of relatives in and near town several days this week.

Mr. and Mrs. Horatio N. Willis, of Philadelphia, spent Sunday with Mr. M. N. Willis and family.

Mrs. James Marsh, of Georgetown, was the guest of Dr. and Mrs. G. A. Barton several days during the past week.

Mr. and Mrs. John M. Naudain and children, of Baltimore, Md., will spend next week with Mrs. E. S. Houston.

Mrs. Hartley Bennett, of Goltz, Md., has been spending two weeks with her brother, George F. Moore, in New York.

Miss Louise Reynolds, of New York, is expected to-day to spend the holidays with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Reynolds.

Dr. Stewart N. Pool, of Pittsburgh, Pa., is spending the Christmas holidays with his father, Mr. Z. A. Pool, near McDonough.

Misses Fannie and Mable Derrickson, of New York, are visitors at the home of their parents, Mr. and Mrs. George Derrickson.

Mr. and Mrs. D. P. Barnard and children, of Wilmington, will spend Christmas Day with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Reynolds.

Mrs. Mary R. Hall and Miss Elizabeth R. Hall are in Philadelphia, where they will spend the holidays with Mrs. Hall's sisters, the Misses Murphy.

Dr. and Mrs. G. A. Burton will leave to-morrow for Millboro, and will return on January 2d. During the doctor's absence his office will be closed.

Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Parker attended the 40th wedding anniversary of his brother, Mr. and Mrs. James A. Parker, in Ardmore, Pa., on Tuesday.

Rev. R. H. Adams was in town on Tuesday evening on his way to Wilmington. He was a guest at the home of his daughter, Mrs. John A. Joffe.

Mrs. Julia Holten and granddaughter, Little Miss Mildred Holten, spent several days the past week with her daughter, Mrs. Harry P. Shapley, in Smyrna.

Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Parker, on Christmas day will entertain Mr. and Mrs. L. G. Sterner, of Camden, and Mrs. W. R. Parker and Dr. and Mrs. J. C. Stiles.

Mrs. Mary Lewis, of Trenton, N. J., and Miss Prudence Lewis, of Brooklyn, N. Y., are spending the Christmas holidays with their parents, Mr. and Mrs. S. E. Lewis.

Mr. and Mrs. W. S. Evans, of Elkton, Md., and Miss Mary Byrne are expected to-day to visit Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Ford over Christmas. Mr. and Mrs. Ford will also entertain Mr. and Mrs. F. R. Pool and sons, of McDonough, on Christmas Day.

ODESSA

Mrs. O. C. Stevens was a Philadelphia visitor on Wednesday.

Pierce Berry spent this week in Philadelphia with relatives.

Mr. Harry Knott spent a few days this week in Philadelphia.

Mr. George W. Heldmyer spent Thursday and Friday in Philadelphia.

Mrs. J. W. McCoy is visiting her daughter, Harry Bolton, at Galena, Md.

Mrs. Harry Ward has returned home after spending a few days in Philadelphia and Chester.

Misses C. Anna Morgan and Emma B. Eccles were Wilmington visitors on Friday of last week.

Miss Nellie Barwick, of Kennedysville, Md., was entertained at the home of her aunt, Mrs. O. C. Stevens, from Friday until Monday.

Mr. Harry Supherman visited Greensboro on Monday. He has purchased a barber shop in that town and will move his family there the first of the new year.

Mr. L. V. Aspell, Sr., returned home on Monday after having undergone an operation on his eye in the Delaware Hospital, Wilmington. His many friends hope he will be very much benefited and that he will soon be able to be out again.

CURRENT PRICES

MIDDLETOWN GRAIN MARKET. CORRECTED WEEKLY BY S. B. POARD. Wheat—No. 1 70 Corn—No. 2 70 Yellow, shelled 42 Timothy Seed \$2.50 clover 41 Clover Seed lb. 15 Oats—No. 1 30 MIDDLETOWN PRODUCE MARKET. CORRECTED WEEKLY BY W. T. CONNELLEY. Eggs, per doz. 20@28 Country Butter, per lb. 37 Creamery Butter, per lb. 41 Lard, per lb. 10@13 Live Chickens, per lb. 12@15 Potatoes 35@40

WARWICK

A Merry Xmas to all.

Wilson Merritt was in Elkton this week.

Mrs. Rachel Merritt has returned home.

The 1907 calendars have made their appearance.

Mrs. E. E. Cochran, of Philadelphia, visited relatives here this week.

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TOWNSEND

Dr. T. A. Enos and son spent Friday in Philadelphia.

Mrs. D. B. Jones spent Wednesday in Middletown.

Mr. and Mrs. W. N. Watte visited Middletown on Wednesday.

Daniel Jones, of Wilmington, was an over Sunday visitor in town.

Mrs. W. H. Reynolds is entertaining Miss Raleigh, of Chincoteague Island.

Mrs. W. A. Scott and Miss L. L. Maloney spent Tuesday in Wilmington.

Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Pollitt, of Philadelphia, are visiting relatives in town.

Mrs. John Morris and son, of Smyrna, visited Mrs. Maggie Lee over Sunday.

Miss Edelwyn Maloney and Arriece Lattomus spent Wednesday in Wilmington.

Mrs. Lydia Hodgson and Mrs. Sallie Taylor visited Wilmington on Wednesday.

Mr. and Mrs. George W. Vandyke spent Wednesday with their son Ralph, near town.

Mrs. William West, of Odessa, and Mrs. F. G. West, of Wilmington, visited town on Saturday.

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FINDING THE WAY OUT

BY OWEN OLIVER.

Tap, tap, tap! Professor Groves pushed his writing aside and laid his spectacles on the table. Without them he appeared young for a professor—a tall, powerful, strenuous man, with kind eyes and mouth and a strong lower jaw.

Come in, he said with cheerful expectation.

Mrs. Fray his housekeeper entered and closed the door carefully behind her. For the first time in his knowledge her widow's cap was awry and she smoothed her apron nervously. She—she has come, sir! she gasped. Mr. Jackson's daughter. She isn't what we expected. What is wrong with her? he asked in alarm.

You said she was about eight. Mr. Jackson was married about nine years ago, so I thought—He started. You don't mean that it's a baby?

Mrs. Fray laughed hysterically. A baby? she cried. Here the baby comes!

There was another tap at the door, and Jackson's "baby" walked in. The professor jumped up from his chair as if he had been shot. His hair would have stood on end, if hair ever did.

It can't be! he ejaculated. There's some mistake.

The "baby" turned red and stared at him. Then she tossed her head indignantly. What is the matter with me? she inquired.

The professor looked hard at her. She was light and pretty and daintily dressed. There was really no fault to find with the baby, but one—she was twenty years of age.

Surely you are not Mr. Jackson's daughter? he said slowly. I expected quite a little child. Otherwise, it is rather awkward.

Oh! She clasped her hands and fought back the sudden tears from her eyes. I thought you knew all about me. I am his stepdaughter, Maude Cousins. He always called me his "little girl." Her voice broke suddenly. Of course I will go.

Not at all, he protested hastily. Now you are here we must make the best of it. My household is badly adapted to receive a—

active young lady; but of course if I had known your age I could have made—

more suitable arrangements. Of course, she retorted, if I had known your age, I should not have known you.

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Not for a moment. She stamped her foot and moved to the door again, but Mrs. Fray took hold of her arm.

Then be mine, my dear, she begged. I am old enough to be your grandmother. You can't go away to-night.

Indeed you can't! the professor declared.

She drew a deep breath. I will stay to-night with Mrs. Fray, she said slowly. Good-evening, sir. She bowed to the professor with great dignity.

When they had gone he poked the fire almost to destruction.

Well, I'm dashed! he muttered. Poor little thing! Poor little thing! I suppose I'd better leave her alone till to-morrow. It's very awkward; but—Really I almost think I should like her.

He sat down again to his writing, but could not fix his mind upon it. At last he got up resolutely and walked round to Mrs. Fray's room. They were talking over the fire. Miss Cousins' eyes appeared as though she had been crying, but they flashed when he appeared.

I won't stay long, he said pleasantly, intended to say that you are a surprise, for which I know I am very awkwardly, for pleasure. Now that I have had time to realize thoroughly the defect in your age, and mine, I wish to welcome you heartily, and to do all in my power to be of service to you. Believe me.

Miss Cousins looked at him frowningly for a moment; but the frown gradually smoothed out into a smile, and suddenly she held out her hand. I do believe you, she said. It wasn't your fault really. I quite see now that I can't stay here.

You can stay with Mrs. Fray till after Christmas. Then I will make the best arrangements that I can for you, if you find you can trust me.

I trust you already, she said frankly. I am sure you would have been very good to me, if I had been young enough.

You should see the preparations he made for you, Mrs. Fray told her meaningly.

No, no! he cried hastily. It is too absurd.

Do let me see them! she begged. You can't begin by refusing the first thing I ask.

He smiled. Very well. Come and laugh at me. He led them down the passage and opened a door. This, he said, is your night nursery. He nodded at a little cot daintily decked in white and a variety of childish furniture.

What a dear little room! she cried. Like everything else, and the wall-paper best of all. She smiled at the boys and girls with their hoops, and the animals and boats and swans.

The professor chose it himself, Mrs. Fray whispered as he went on ahead. You've no idea what interest he took in it.

It was very, very kind, the girl said softly.

This, the professor announced, is your day nursery. I—we chose it because it looks over the garden and is light and airy.

It is lovely, she declared. Were these books all for me? Dear old "Anderson," "Shocked," "Peter," "Alice in Wonderland." Did you think I should be able to read that, professor?

No; but I could have read it to you. I meant to devote a little time to you every day. You were his child, you see; and really it would have been a pleasure. I am sorry to lose it.

She smiled up at him. I don't know that I'm too old to like a little of your time. You bought that great rocking horse for me? And those pretty dolls? And the doll's house and cradle? Oh! She clasped her hands. I should have been happy here, if I had been a little girl. I almost wish—

She walked over to the window and wiped her eyes furiously.

After a few moments the professor put his hand on her shoulder. I am so glad that it would have pleased you. Perhaps we can find some grown-up pleasures instead. Shall we go down to the drawing-room?

There is the long room, Mrs. Fray suggested.

No; no! he cried hastily. That is too ridiculous. I don't want Miss—Miss Maude to laugh at me too much.

I am sure I shan't! said she. He shrugged his shoulders, but led them down the passage, opened another door and lit the gas.

The room was almost bare of furniture, except a number of chairs and a large table at one

end. On the middle of the table a large Christmas tree stood.

I thought you would enjoy a little party, he apologized. I wanted to make you feel at home. Oh! she cried. You have!

We might ask some grown-ups instead, he proposed; but she shook her head.

Let me have the children, please. Do you like children?

I don't see children very often, he confessed.

Then I may have my party? Certainly, if you really wish it. I shall enjoy it above every thing. She held out her hand impulsively. Do let me say one thing. If I had been a child, I should have liked to be your little girl.

He took her hand and held it tight. If I were old, as a professor should be, I should be my big girl instead. As it is, I'm afraid there's no way out of it; but we can be friends.

Yes, she agreed emphatically. Then they went down to the drawing-room. She was a good pianist, and the professor had some songs and some voice. They had been trying songs for an hour when Mrs. Fray peeped in. They did not notice her, and she nodded and smiled as she retreated down the passage.

They'll find a way out of it, she prophesied.

The next night was Christmas Eve. They drove into the town on a purchasing expedition, for which the party was largely responsible. He left her to mind the trap while he went into the jeweler's. He bought only a gold brooch there, but he was fastidious in the selection, so it took him a long time. Meanwhile she found a boy to hold the horse, and bought a rack for post cards and stamps. It was extremely undignified, she reflected, to keep them loose in a drawer as he did, and it would be nice to have something for him, if he should make her a present.

It would have been pleasant if you had been younger, he remarked as they were going home. I rather wanted some one to look after.

It would have been pleasant too if you had been older, she retorted. I rather wanted some one to look after me.

Unfortunately, he said, we're as we are. There's no way out of it.

No, she agreed. In the evening they had more music, and afterward he taught her billiards; though, he pointed out, the game could not be learned properly in less than a month.

If you had been staying here altogether, he observed regretfully, it would have been different. It is a pity, she declared.

A great pity, he agreed. She appeared exceedingly attractive as she stood under the light chalking her cue elaborately. The pity of it struck him forcibly.

She was down-stairs first Christmas morning, and found the brooch beside her plate. So she ran back to her room and brought the rack.

You would have made me quite tidy, he said, if you had been as young as a little girl should be.

You would have quite spoiled me, she retorted, if you had been as old as a professor ought to be.

He smiled gently and said that they must make the best of what they were; and she smiled back and said that her difficulty was to know what was the best.

They went to church in the morning and for a long walk in the afternoon, and in the evening they played cards and talked and sang; and last of all they talked across the fire. She admired him because he knew so much, and he admired her because she knew so little. So they were both satisfied.

It has been the pleasantest of days, the professor vowed, when she was going off to bed, my dear big baby!

The pleasantest of days, she echoed sadly from the door, my dear young professor!

The professor looked at himself in the glass and shook his head. I am older—or younger! he muttered. I'm not old, really. Perhaps—Tut, tut! I'd better get back to my books to-morrow. She's nothing but a child.

When to-morrow came, however, he decided that it was his duty to devote himself to his guest during her short visit. The following day they had to prepare for the party in the evening; so of course he could not work then. She made a list of many colored papers, and he hung them up and put holly and evergreen as she directed him. He was only a learner, and she was "a professor in parties," she said.

The instructor must go over the door-ways, she commanded, so that the girls can pretend they are surprised when they are caught as they go out or come in. I always did when I was a little girl.

And now? the professor inquired.

Subtly bent over the festoon she was making, to hide the mischief in her eyes. I should be really surprised, of course.

Al! he said thoughtfully. I wish you'd come and look if it is in the right place. You see I am not used to such things.

Are you surprised?

I don't think you would do such a thing, professor. It isn't as if I were quite little, or you were quite old.

I can't help our ages.

Upon my word, he declared, I couldn't. Now I'll hang a small piece on the chain.

delier, in case there are any little girls who don't mind coming under it. Is it too big, do you think?

Of course not! I could stand under it myself, she! On! I will never try to make it!

Did you mind, really? he asked rather anxiously.

Of course I did! I am a good thing never to speak to you again. Come and hold this, please, and don't look so cross. I have you look at me quite as a child, I'm glad to be!

No, you can't! Please be sensible. Professor should be very professional. I'll be professional, he said.

It cannot be said that he was in the evening, after "musical lessons," "billiard night," "musical chairs," and gambling on all fours covered with tiger skin are to be considered professor's occupations. Moreover, he chafed disgracefully over the letter for the Christmas-tree, so that the children got what they wanted. Once when "John and Ann" as "doll" he laughed so suddenly that Maude asked what was the matter.

I was thinking of a sentence in my book on "Early Moral Training," he confessed. Absolute rectitude in even the smallest matters is essential in dealing with children. You see I've never had charge of a child.

She laughed. Except me. Maude Pearson has drawn a box of tops. I suppose you can't make it a box of pencils. At 44, a box of pencils, he called.

It's a box of pencils, all the same, he declared unblushingly.

When the drawing was over they had supper; and when the supper was over they had "Sir Roger de Coverley," and when "Sir Roger de Coverley" was over the little girls ran in and out of the door and were surprised under the mistletoe.

It is astonishing how long it takes an intelligent little girl to learn where the mistletoe is. In fact, the more intelligent she is the longer it seems to take her.

At last the carriage came, and the little ones went. The professor surprised all the girls as they went out. The boys who were his faithful surprised Maude, and she surprised those who were. Then the professor went back to look at the empty room, and he—Well, it did not seem to surprise her very much; but she sighed.

You can't treat me as a little girl, she said, after to-night. If I were, I expect I should be very happy to stay and be your little girl. But I'm growing up, so I must go. There's no way out of it.

Isn't there? The professor closed the door with one arm; the other was still round her waist. If it is so, you, little Maude, wouldn't that be a way?

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